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# EXHIBITION DAHLIAS

AND

# VICTORY GARDEN VEGETABLES

FOR

1 9 4 4

RUSCHMOHR DAHLIA GARDENS

38 VINCENT STREET  
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, L. I.  
NEW YORK



INTRODUCERS OF

"CERTIFICATE OF MERIT" and "HONOR ROLL DAHLIAS"



Telephone: ROCKVILLE CENTRE 6274



# Greetings

Dear Dahlia Friends:

In our 1943 catalog we spoke of growing dahlias in between rows of vegetables. The photo in this catalog will give you an idea of our combined Victory-Dahlia Garden as of July 4, 1943. The garden referred to is a plot that has been used each year as a trial garden for undeseminated dahlias. The dahlia plants therein were used for show purposes and were entered in the various seedling classes, including that of the American Home Achievement Medal class. This dahlia patch was plowed in April and stakes were set out in rows four feet apart. Between these rows, bush beans, carrots, beets, lettuce and Swiss chard was planted. By the time the dahlias required more room the vegetables had been harvested and surpluses canned. Therefore those wishing to undertake this the coming year can be assured of having plenty of vegetables as well as a beautiful garden of dahlias. Again we are including in this catalog, plants grown and shipped in pots of Tomatoes, Peppers and Egg Plants.

Reports we have received from all over the country indicated that the past year was a most trying one in growing dahlias due to lack of rains during July and August. However, we were fortunate in having plenty of rain during September and October and our root crop turned out to be good. Under the circumstances we are in a position to supply large healthy roots and clumps of most of all the leading varieties in our catalog.

In our new introductions, we again feel we lead the way, with the outstanding seedling winner of the year in Sarett's Pink Flamingo, together with Roselyn Straight, the winner of the D. W. Hart Gold Medal of the year, with an average score of 86.2 at the three American Dahlia Society Trial Grounds. Our third introduction, Sherwood's Peach, is another one of those giants of giants that will appear in the largest bloom in the show class. These certainly should be included in your 1944 dahlia victory garden.

Here's for a bumper victory garden crop together with a glorious dahlia garden in 1944.

Cordially yours,  
Ruschmohr Dahlia Gardens,  
H. Dewey Mohr.



RUSCHMOHR DAHLIA—Victory Garden

## RUSCHMOHR INTRODUCTION



SARETT'S PINK FLAMINGO

**SARETT'S PINK FLAMINGO** (Sarett) Incurred cactus. The outstanding seedling of the year. A clear rose pink incurred cactus of exquisite color and formation. As the bloom develops, colors change: young blooms are shell pink on petal with yellow blend at the base; mature blooms are deeper pink, with gold tones at the center and slight gold tips. The blooms are beautifully formed, with excellent substance and perfect centers, pointed, tight and symmetrical. Size 8-11 inches in diameter and 5-6 inches deep. Stem 8-14 inches in length straight and strong. The bush is 5-6 ft. tall and is clean vigorous grower. Free flowering blooms, keep remarkably well on the bush and when cut. The foliage is dark green and tough and 100% insect resistant. This new pink cactus is beautiful in the garden and a sure winner on the show table. It is so sturdy, reliable and uniform, that it promises to be universally grown in the dahlia world to come.

Its record of performance: Winner of 3 American Home Achievement Medals at Chicago, Milwaukee, and Scranton. Also winner of Marshall Field Gold Cup in Chicago. Listed on all the Honor Rolls, making it a Three Star Dahlia.

Roots \$15. Net

Plants \$7.50

3 for \$20.

## RUSCHMOHR INTRODUCTION



ROSELYN STRAIGHT

**ROSELYN STRAIGHT** (Straight-Wells) Semi cactus. General appearance of color is apricot yellow, shaded and streaked scarlet red, very tips of petals lemon yellow. Size of bloom 9-12 inches in diameter by 4-7 inches deep. Bush 5 to 6 ft. Listed on Mr. L. B. Dudley's Eastern Honor Roll in The Flower Grower who says "Roselyn Straight, S.C. to I.D. Color pale lemon yellow. Petals crinkly and rolled at ends. Bush height 5 ft. Stems strong and straight; flowers facing. Foliage is attractive with leaves serrated at edge and light in color. Can be grown to 12 by 7 inches easily. I grew this in 1942 and again this year and liked it very much". Also listed on Mr. J. Louis Roberts' Honor Roll of The Flower Grower who says "Roselyn Straight will be a competitor of Satan in the flame class. It is rather hard to describe as to color for the reason that at show time it has more scarlet than late in the season. It might be described as apricot yellow, streaked and shaded scarlet red. It is in a class where we need something new for exhibition purposes. I had blooms side facing, measuring 10 by 6 inches. Bush tall."

Its record of performance: In 1942 at The American Dahlia Society Trial Grounds in Storrs, Conn., it received a certificate with a score of 86. Also received a certificate at The American Dahlia Society Trial Grounds at Fairmont, W. Va., with a score of 86.5. In 1943 at The American Dahlia Society Trial Grounds in East Lansing, Mich., received a certificate with a score of 86.3, giving the dahlia an average score of 86.2 in three A. D. S. Trial Grounds and the D. W. Hart Gold Medal for the year 1943.

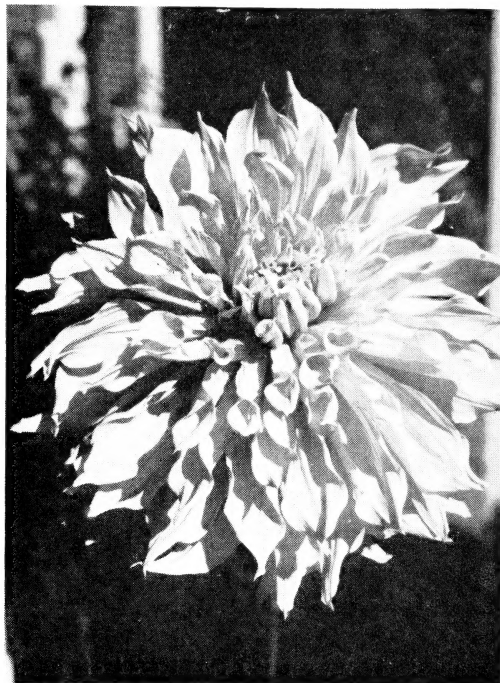
Roots \$15.

Plants \$7.50

3 for \$20.



# RUSCHMOHR INTRODUCTION



SHERWOOD'S PEACH

**SHERWOOD'S PEACH** (Sherwood) Informal Decorative. Another one of our giant introductions. Color ochreous buff. Size of blooms 11-14 inches by 8-9 inches in depth. Straight stiff stems. A sure contender in the largest bloom in the show class. Listed on Mr. L. B. Dudley's Honor Roll in *The Flower Grower*, who says "Sherwood's Peach, I.D. color ochreous Buff with spiral red showing at center and in line on face. General effect is peach. It is another giant of giants. Without severe disbudding we grew it 12½ inches across by 8 inches deep, last year. Bush 5 ft. and higher. Stems cane like, holding big flowers on side. Foliage dark and vigorous. Advise planting early. It is one of those sturdy woody slow developers but we almost guarantee you can win 'biggest in the show' with this one."

Roots \$15.

Plants \$7.50

3 for \$20.



Mr. L. R. Briggs, originator of Mollie B.—Raised this Dahlia in 1939 from 100 mixed seed of The Stephenson Dahlia Gardens.

### CHOICE DAHLIA SEED

We are the Eastern Representatives of the Stephenson Dahlia Gardens of Santa Monica, Cal., handling their originations as well as their seed which is considered the finest dahlia seed in California, grown from the largest planting of Honor Roll, Certificate of Merit and large type Exhibition Dahlias in Southern California. The garden is so planned and planted to get the best possible crosses and all seeds are ripened on the plant. No small type dahlias are permitted to bloom in the garden during seed time. In addition to the above introduction some of the leading recent introductions have been produced by this seed, in which include the highest scoring Dahlia in the A. D. S. Trial Ground in Storrs, in 1941. We suggest that you order early in order to avoid any disappointments. The prices of the seed is as follows:

20 seed for \$1.00   50 seed for \$2.50   100 seed for 5.00   1000 seed for \$40

## 1944 INTRODUCTIONS OF OTHER GROWERS

**ALMINA** (Rivel-Premier) S. C. Large yellow. In some soils straight cactus. Bushes grow about 5 ft. tall and field grown blooms average 9-10 inches by 5-6 inches. Certificate of Merit at Storrs in 1943. Winner at Essex County Show in class of 8 seedlings. Listed on Mr. L. B. Dudley's Honor Roll in The Flower Grower.

Plants \$5.00 3 for \$12.50

**CLARIAM BELLE** (Wolbert-Rocky River) I. D. Bicolor. Petals primrose yellow each with about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch white tip. Very interesting light bicolor. Blooms 9 x 5½ inches. Bush 4-5 ft. Listed in Mr. L. B. Dudley's Honor Roll in The Flower Grower.

Plants \$2.50

**DOUBLE DUTY** (Dixie) F. D. Tyrian rose. Size 6 x 4. Seedling of Miss Oakland. A very even growing free bloomer on long stems. Has exceptional keeping qualities. Winner of Leonard Barron Memorial Trophy at New York in 1943. Won as best formal decorative in Chicago and Toledo in 1942. On Mr. L. B. Dudley's and Mr. J. Louis Robert's Honor Roll in The Flower Grower.

Plants \$5. net

**GAY IMP** (Sjoberg) I. D. Red and White Bicolor. 6-8 inches in diameter by 4 inches in depth. Good stems. Excellent foliage. Dahlia has excellent keeping qualities and has always been a true bicolor. Winner as best seedling in the 8 inch bloom class in N. E. Pa. dahlia show in Scranton, 1943. Listed on Mr. L. B. Dudley's Honor Roll in The Flower Grower in 1942. Also J. W. Johnston's Dahlia Futurity in House Beautiful in 1941.

Roots \$7.50 Plants \$2.50 3 for \$6.

**JAMES ROSS** (Dorff) I. D. Color amaranth purple, ground flushed pansy purple. Size 12-13 inches by 7-8 inches. Good stem which holds blooms well out of the foliage. Bush 4-5 feet in height. Won first in a vase of 3 in seedling class in Pittsburgh Show in 1942. Listed on Mr. L. B. Dudley's Honor Roll in The Flower Grower.

Plants \$5. net 3 for \$12.50 net

**LINK'S BLACK PRINCE** (Link-Premier) I. D. Very deep shade of velvety maroon. Size 11 x 7. Plants average 5 ft. tall and are vigorous growers with leathery foliage and straight stiff stems, which hold the blooms facing. Certificate of Merit at East Lansing, Mich. A three star dahlia, making all the Honor Rolls of the country.

Plants \$7.50 3 for \$15

**MARGARET** (Golden Rule) F. D. Outstanding white from the same strain as that produced Begonia Rose and Commando.

Plants \$3.50

**LINK'S SENSATION** (Link-Premier) I. D. Color a mixture of buff and scarlet blending to an orange with bittersweet reverse. Blooms are reported as large and deep. Strong bushes about 5 ft. tall. Foliage tough and insect resistant. Strong stems holding blooms facing. Certified at East Lansing, Mich. On Mr. L. B. Dudley's and Mr. J. Louis Robert's Honor Roll in The Flower Grower.

Plants \$5. 3 for \$12.50

**MOTHER KOENIG** (Lakeside) I. D. Large shrimp pink fading to yellow, growing 10 to 12 inches by 6 inches to 8 inches, on wonderful stems with loads of flowers facing side. Bush 5 ft. Insect resistant. American Home Achievement Medal Winner at New Baltimore, Mich. On Mr. L. B. Dudley's and Col. Richard T. Eddy's Honor Roll in The Flower Grower.

Plants \$5. net

**NATION'S PRIDE** (Heil) I. D. Color blend of peach red suffused buff and chrome yellow with apricot red at center. Plant reported to grow like Sunrays. Long stems holding large flowers erect on side. Blooms 9½ x 6½ inches. Bush 4½ ft., with rugged foliage. Certificate of Merit at Storrs, Conn., in 1943. Listed on Mr. L. B. Dudley's Honor Roll in The Flower Grower.

Plants \$5.

**POET'S DREAM** (Salem) I. D. Color apple blossom pink with pure white center. Blooms early and profusely. Size 11 x 7. Bush 4½ ft. Vigorous grower. This is a three star dahlia, making the 3 Honor Rolls of the country.

Plants \$10.

**SALEM'S SUNSHINE** (Salem) I. D. Color pure soft yellow. Size 12 inches x 9 inches. Petals curl and twist and have good substance. Early and profuse bloomer. Bush medium tall. This is a three star dahlia, making the 3 Honor Rolls of the country.

Plants \$10.

**THE DRAGON** (Dahliadel) I. D. Blend of shrimp pink and chrome yellow and general effect of orange. Size 11 x 5. Strong stems. Bush 5 ft. Foliage tough and resistant. Listed on Mr. L. B. Dudley's Honor Roll in The Flower Grower.

Roots \$10. Plants \$5.

**WORLD EVENT** (Dixie) I. D. Amaranth pink, flushed mallow purple, general effect being soft glowing pink. Size 9 x 6 inches. High centered and bloom comes completely back to stem. Flowers are held on side. Strong stem. Certificate of Merit at Storrs and East Lansing in 1943. A three star dahlia listed on all three Honor Rolls of the country.

Plants \$5.

## Other Standard Introductions

	Plants	Roots
ALICE MAY, I. D., Pure waxy white .....	\$ .50	\$ 1.00
ALL AMERICAN, S. C., Old Rose .....	1.50	3.00
ANDRIES SUPERBA, R. C., Bright red .....	.50	1.00
ANGIE V., F. D., Scarlet red .....	3.50	7.50
BAKER'S BEST, I. D., Clear yellow .....	2.00	5.00
BESS SMITH, I. D., Pure white .....	3.50	7.50
CLARA E. PETH, S. C., Pink and white .....	1.50	3.00
COLIN KELLY, JR., I. D., Large clear phlox pink .....	3.50	7.50
COLONEL A. G. RUDD I. D., Carmine red .....	3.50	7.50
COLUMBIA, S. C., Deep gold .....	2.00	5.00
COMMANDO, F. D., True phlox purple .....	3.50	10.00
CONFUCIOUS, S. C., Large Chinese red .....	1.50	3.00
CROWNING GLORY, I. C., Pink and cream .....	1.50	3.00
DEEP PURPLE, F. D., Magneta purple .....	1.00	2.00
DIR. CARL G. DAHL, I. D., Blended rose and salmon ....	.50	.75
DIXIE'S MASTERPIECE, I. D., Crimson .....	2.00	5.00
DIXIE'S MASTERPIECE, I. D., Red and white bicolor ....	3.50	7.50
DOROTHY GEER, F. D., Light rose pink .....	1.50	3.00
DOROTHY MAE HERTEL, F. D., Shell pink .....	1.00	2.00
DR. MARSHALL A. HOWE, F. D., Magenta .....	.50	1.00
EDITH WILKIE, S. C., Large white .....	1.50	3.00
EVELYN CHANDLER, S. C., Gold apricot .....	.75	1.50
FRANCES DEWEY, S. C., Scarlet red .....	5.00	10.00
FRECKLES, I. D., Yellow speckled peach .....	.50	.75
GEORGE YOUNG, I. C., One of the recent Australians of apricot rose .....	1.50	3.00
GINGER ROGERS, I. D., Citron yellow .....	1.50	3.00
GOLD MINE, F. D., Pinard yellow .....	2.00	5.00
HEART OF GOLD, R. C., Purest gold, Recent Australian	1.50	3.00
IRENE DUNNE, R. C., Rose pink .....	3.50	7.00
IVORY PRINCESS, S. C., Gigantic ivory .....	1.50	3.00
JENETTE, F. D., Purple and white bicolor .....	1.50	3.00
JOHN WOOLMAN, I. C., Australian, crimson, overlaid rosy shadings .....	1.50	3.00
LAURA LAWRENCE, I. C., Australian rich rose pink ....	1.50	3.00
MADAME JUSSANT, I. C., Lavender .....	.50	.75
MAFFIE, S. C., Very large intense red .....	1.25	2.50
MARJORY RUBERY, I. C., Australian ivory white .....	1.50	3.00
MARY LYNN DUDLEY, S. C., True carmine .....	1.00	2.00
MILBEE'S MASTERPIECE, S. C., Large yellow .....	.50	1.00
MOLLIE B., I. D., Very large tyrian pink .....	2.00	5.00
MONARCH, F. D., Scarlet .....	2.00	5.00
MRS. H. G. RUDSON, I. D., Peach .....	2.00	5.00
MRS. THOS. A. EDISON, I. D., Velvety red reverse silver .	2.00	5.00
MRS. W. K. DU PONT, I. D., Lavender .....	1.50	3.00
MURPHY'S MASTERPIECE, I. D., Large red .....	.50	1.00
NANCY ANN MITCHELL, I. C., Red .....	.75	1.50
NIGHTFALL, I. C., Australian of deepest maroon, black at center .....	1.50	3.00
PEARL HARBOR, I. D., Flecked lavender and purple ....	3.50	7.50
PURPLE MIST, F. D., Purple .....	.50	.75
PYGMALION, S. C., Bronzy red .....	1.00	2.00
REGALIA, R. C., Red and silver reverse .....	2.00	5.00
RITA WELLS, I. D., Pink with apricot shadings. Very large	.75	1.50
RUDOLF'S GIANT, I. D., Buff apricot. Very large .....	.75	1.50

	Plants	Roots
RHYTHM, I. C., Cameo with suffusions of soft rose .....	3.50	7.50
SHANGRI-La, F. D., Lemon yellow .....	2.00	5.00
SNOWBALL, I. C., White .....	.50	1.00
STEPHEN FOSTER, I. C., Buff orange .....	2.00	5.00
STRAIGHT'S WHITE, S. C., Pure white .....	.75	1.50
SUNRAYS, I. D., Orange suffused peach .....	.50	1.00
THE REAL GLORY, F. D., Pure white .....	1.00	2.00
TOP FLIGHT, S. C., Bright blood red .....	2.00	5.00
TOPS, I. D., Clear rich yellow .....	2.00	
VICTORY, F. D., Rose pink .....	\$1.00	\$ 2.00
VIOLA, I. C., Australian of rich rosy lilac .....	1.50	3.00
VIRGINIA RUTE, S. C., Ox-blood red .....	.75	1.50
VOLCANO, F. D., Orange flame red .....	.50	1.50
WAAC, F. D., Blended yellow and pink. Very large .....	3.50	7.50
WHIRLAWAY, I. D., Sulphur yellow .....	1.50	3.00
WHIRLWIND, I. C., Australian. Purple .....	1.50	3.00
WINGS, S. C., Dark carmine .....	3.50	7.50
WINTERMORN, I. C., White .....	1.50	3.00

## POM PONS

BETTY ANN, Pink .....	.50	.50
BETTY MALONE, White with purple tip .....	.50	.75
BLACK CAP, Dark maroon .....	1.00	2.00
BRASS BUTTON, Clean yellow .....	.50	1.00
CLOVER, White with tint of pink .....	.50	1.00
DORIA, Dark red .....	.50	.50
EBONY, Dark red almost black .....	.50	1.00
EILEEN, Lavender and white bicolor .....	.50	.75
LITTLE EDITH, Primrose .....		.25
LITTLE JACKIE, Yellow .....	1.00	2.00
MELROSE BABY, Deep cherry red .....	.50	1.00
MISS MARJORIE, Mulberry. Best exhibition pom .....	.50	1.00
MRS. J. TELFER, White .....	.50	.75
MRS. V. BRITAIN, Pink .....	.50	.75
PINK DUCHESS, Delicate pink .....	1.00	2.00
Regent, Purple .....	.50	1.00
ROSEGAY, Deep purple .....	1.00	2.00
VALDA, Purple and silver reverse .....	.50	1.00
WHINCHAT, Dark red .....	1.50	3.00

## MINIATURES

ANDREAS ORANGE, M. S. C., Bright orange .....	.50	.75
BETSY T., M. S. C., Lavender .....	.50	1.00
BROADHURST, M. S. C., Amber .....	1.00	2.00
CASILLA GLORY, M. S. C., Bright orange .....	1.00	2.00
DUBONET, M. S. C., Dark red .....	.50	.50
DANDY, M. S. C., Pink and cream blend .....	.75	1.50
EXQUISITE, M. S. C., Pink and white blend .....	1.00	2.00

	Plants	Roots
EDNA L., M. S. C., Tyrian pink, mallow purple at center ..	1.00	2.00
GENEVA CRYSTAL WHITE, M. S. C., White .....	1.00	2.00
HOMEACRES SWEETEST, M. S. C., Strawberry pink with buff center .....	.50	1.00
JEANIE, M. S. C., Salmon .....	.50	.75
LINDA, M. S. C., Amber and yellow .....	1.00	2.00
LITTLE DARLING, M. S. C., Soft pink, yellow center ....	.50	1.00
NARANYERI, M. S. C., Rich rosy purple .....	1.00	2.00
PEGGY LINDLEY, M. F. D., Golden amber .....	.75	1.50
PETITE PRINCE, M. S. C., Crimson .....	.75	1.50
RED ROBIN, M. I. D., Bright red .....	.50	.75
RICKY, M. F. D., Red and white bicolor .....	1.00	2.00
RON DURHAM, M. S. C., Rich bright crimson .....	1.00	2.00
SARAH, M. S. C., Soft pink .....	.75	1.50
SNOWSPRITE, M. S. C., White .....	.50	.75
SUSAN R., M. S. C., Salmon pink .....	.75	1.50
VERA, M. S. C., Lavender .....	1.00	2.00
WALCO, M. F. D., Apple blossom pink .....	1.00	2.00
WHITE FAWN, M. F. D., Waxy white .....	.75	1.50
WINSOME, M. I. D., Cerise .....	1.00	2.00

## BALL, COLLARETTES, ORCHIDS and SINGLES

ALICE, J. B., Amarath pink shaded white .....	.50	1.00
BLOODHOUND, B., Dark red .....	.50	1.00
IMP, O., Clear yellow .....	.50	1.00
JERSEY MAID, S., Yellow and white bl-color .....	\$ .50	\$ 1.00
LA GOLDRINA, C., Pink with gold collar .....	.50	.50
LAVENDER DELIGHT, B., Lavender .....	.50	1.00
LEAH PEARL, B., Pink .....	.50	1.00
MARSHALL'S GLORY, S., Red and white bicolor .....	.50	1.00
PREAKNESS, C., White with white collar .....	.50	.50
PURITY, S., White .....	.50	.50
WHITE CAPS, B., White .....	.75	1.50

## *Special Dahlia Collections*

We are also offering at this time collections made up of the leading exhibition varieties mentioned in this catalog. The value received is more than triple the catalog value. We guarantee that all the dahlias in these collections are correctly labeled and the stock is true and healthy. Moreover, if you are not satisfied with the selection of the dahlias in the following collections, we shall be pleased to refund your money, upon the return of the stock. We shall send any of the following prepaid:

**COLLECTION No. 1**—Six named high class large type exhibition dahlia roots for \$3.00.

**COLLECTION No. 2**—Eight roots named of recent Honor Roll or Certificate of Merit large type exhibition dahlias, not one of which is over three years old for \$10.00. Should you desire plants of this collection, the price will be \$3.00.

**COLLECTION No. 3**—Eight roots named of new Honor Roll and Certificate of Merit Dahlias, large type exhibition dahlias, not over two years old for \$15. Should you desire plants of this collection, the price will be \$5.00.

**COLLECTION No. 4**—Six named high class exhibition pom pon dahlia roots for \$1.00.

**COLLECTION No. 5**—Six named high class exhibition miniature dahlia roots for \$1.00.

**COLLECTION No. 6**—Six named high class dahlias, collection to include roots of pom pons, miniatures, mignons, collar-ettes, orchids and singles. You may have one of each type or if you prefer any particular type we shall be pleased to let you have them.



## VEGETABLE PLANTS

Tomato plants of the following varieties, grown and shipped in 2" pots. Price 75c per dozen.

Marglobe

Stone

John Baer

Bonnie Best

Golden Jubilee

Pepper plants of the following varieties grown and shipped in 2" pots. Price 75c per dozen.

Bullnose

Harris Early

Peerless

Egg Plant plants of the following varieties grown and shipped in 3" pots. Price \$1. per dozen.

Black Beauty

Black Prince

# TERMS

Remittances must accompany all orders.

We prepay postage or express charges on all retail orders in excess of \$3.

Wholesale orders will be shipped express collect.

We never make substitutions unless authorized.

Our plants are full grown and raised and shipped in three-inch pots.

**ROOTED CUTTINGS:** It is not our policy to recommend the purchase of rooted cuttings by any other than experienced commercial growers of dahlia plants. We will furnish well rooted cuttings on those varieties wherein we list plants of \$2.50 and over. Prices are one third less than the list price of plants.

**CLUMPS:** We can supply clumps on the varieties where we list the price of roots, for Fall delivery or in time for propagation.

We guarantee all our stock to be healthy and true to name and will be responsible to the extent of replacement of stock or refund of the exact amount involved but no further.

Our greenhouse has been certified by the United States Department of Agriculture and is inspected frequently. Every root and plant we ship out of the quarantined area for Japanese Beetle and European Corn Borer is examined by a United States Department of Agriculture Inspector who renders a certificate upon completion of inspection of each individual shipment.

All abbreviations are as follows:

(I.C.)	Incurved Cactus
(R.C.)	Recurved or Straight Cactus
(S.C.)	Semi Cactus
(F.D.)	Formal Decorative
(I.D.)	Informal Decorative
(B.)	Ball
(C.)	Collarette
(O.)	Orchid
(S.)	Single
(M.F.D.)	Miniature Formal Decorative
(M.I.D.)	Miniature Informal Decorative
(M.S.C.)	Miniature semi Cactus
(M.R.C.)	Miniature Recurved Cactus

## DIRECTIONS FOR THE GROWING AND CULTIVATION OF EXHIBITION DAHLIAS

**Time** — The proper time to plant dahlias for exhibition purposes in this climate is about the tenth of June. Of course, if one is not depending upon the shows, they can be planted as soon as the frost is over. In this climate we advise a succession of planting from May 15 to July 1.

**Preparing Soil** — About one week or ten days before planting, spade your garden and leave it in the rough, then broadcast into soil to every 100 sq. ft. or to approximately ten dahlia hills 5 lbs. raw bonemeal mixed with 2 lbs. of muriate or sulphate potash which should be raked into the soil thoroughly.

**Planting of Roots** — Plant about 6 inches deep, no more, laying root flat on its side with eye facing upward. Fill hole only halfway to top and as sprout grows gradually fill in.

**Planting of Green Plants** — As plants are received, remove cartons and leave in pot. Soak them in shallow water for a few minutes in order to freshen plant after its journey through the mail. Set out plants in late afternoon or on a cloudy day, removing pot from plant. Make sure that plant is planted deep enough and if the following day should be hot and sunny, suggest shading plant with a peach basket during the heat of the day. Fill hole gradually with dirt as plant grows.

**Stakes** to which the plants are to be tied should be inserted at the time of planting; this also applies to roots.

**Cultivation** — Keep soil well pulverized and suggest cultivation about 24 hours after rainfall, in order to keep the soil from becoming baked. This is very important and should there be lack of rain, suggest weekly cultivations. Discontinue all cultivating after August 15, as roots have a tendency to come to top and will be disturbed by continuous cultivating.

**Watering** — Unless weather is very dry, dahlias will need no water until they commence to bloom. Then water thoroughly, soak the ground every week or ten days as needed.

**Insects** — Can usually be controlled by spraying weekly with a good insecticide. Even though plants appear to be clean and healthy, a weekly spray will act as a preventive. When you find a flower is being eaten or a stem drooping, make a search and you will be sure to find the troublesome pest, and kill it.

**Disbudding and Disbranching** — To get large flowers on long stems it is very necessary to disbud and disbranch. When plants come up leave only one stalk. After three sets of leaves appear, pinch out the crown or center. In a short time a top pair of laterals will make themselves evident which eventually will be a branch of the dahlia bush. When the buds appear, leave only one of the three buds that usually come in a cluster, pinching out the side two. New branches will appear in the form of laterals between the leaves and the stalk. These should also be pinched out and it is well to pinch out all laterals below the remaining bud except the two nearest the main stalk. This will keep your plant low and bushy and you will have many flowers on long stems from branches below which will develop rapidly.

**Fertilization** — About the 15th of July give each dahlia a handful of potato fertilizer (4-8-8). Repeat this same application about Aug. 5. Again repeat this same application when the buds appear about Aug. 20. No further fertilizing is required after this.

**Cut Flowers** — Dahlias should be cut in the early morning or in the evening after sundown. After flowers are cut dip stems into hot water (about boiling) for one or two minutes. Then place in deep cold water in a cellar for a few hours to freshen. Flowers then may be ready to ship by packing in strong corrugated boxes, laid out in florists tissue paper. It might be well to fold up newspapers to act as a pillow for the large blooms to rest on in order to avoid bruising.

**Storage** — After the black frost has killed the dahlias, cut the tops at the ground and dig them carefully with a good fork, being careful not to strain the necks of the roots. Cut stalk with 2 inches of crown and allow clumps to dry out in the sun three or four hours before placing into barrels or boxes. Suggest that clumps be placed in inverted position while drying, in order that water in stems will drain out. It is well to allow soil to cling to clumps to prevent root necks from breaking and excessive drying of tubers. A good potato cellar is very desirable as a storage bin for dahlias. If this is not available, keep them as far as possible from the heater and in a space where the temperature will not go below 40 degrees nor above 55 degrees.

**Preparing Soil for Next Year** — After roots have been dug spade the garden and plant winter rye. If your soil has a tendency to be acid would broadcast lime stone over it. The spreading of cow manure over the winter rye will also be very beneficial. Turn rye over just before it goes into stalk which in this climate is usually about the first week in May.



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